

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07

L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-03 SS-15

SP-02 INT-05 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 PA-01 PRS-01 OIC-02

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TAGS: UNGA, EGEN

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA - AGENDA ITEM 59: UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

REF: (A) USUN 5027; (B) USUN 5205; (C) USUN 5239;
(D) USUN 5244; (E) USUN 5292; (F) USUN 5327; (G) USUN 5335

1. SUMMARY: SECOND COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THIS AGENDA ITEM
OCTOBER 20 THROUGH 24. SECRETARIAT SPOKESMEN INCLUDED UNEP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STRONG (REPORT ON THE UNEP THIRD GOVERNING
COUNCIL AND GENERAL WORK PROGRAM OF UNEP), SECRETARY-GENERAL
PENALOSA (HABITAT), UNEP DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOLBA
(DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE) AND VAIDYANATHAN KANDASWAMY
(REPORT ON MULTILATERAL FINANCING OF HOUSING AND HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS). REPRESENTATIVES OF 57 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED
IN THE DEBATE. THERE WAS ALMOST UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON THE
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IMPORTANCE OF UNEP AND ON THE NECESSITY THAT UNEP CONCENTRATE

ITS ACTIVITIES IN A FEW PRIORITY AREAS (THOUGH THE COMPENDIUM OF PRIORITIES INDICATED BY INDIVIDUAL SPEAKERS COVERED A WIDE AND DIVERSE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES). A BEHIND THE SCENES STRUGGLE ON THE HABITAT RESOLUTION (INVOLVING ISRAELI, PLO AND NGO PARTICIPATION) SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. ALTHOUGH THE MAJOR DEBATE HAS CONCLUDED, THE ITEM REMAINS OPEN (A) TO PERMIT CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON MULTILATERAL FINANCING OF HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND (B) FOR ACTION ON THE VARIOUS PENDING RESOLUTIONS END SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED REFTEL (B), THIS ITEM WAS INTRODUCED IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 20 BY UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAURICE STRONG WHO REPORTED ON THE THIRD SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND ON THE WORK PROGRAM OF UNEP. HABITAT SECRETARY-GENERAL PENALOSA SUBSEQUENTLY REVIEWED THE STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1976 CONFERENCE.

3. ON OCTOBER 23, VAIDYANATH KANDASWAMY (OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE CENTER FOR HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING) INTRODUCED THE REPORT ON CRITERIA GOVERNING MULTILATERAL FINANCING OF HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (A/10225). IN HIS INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS, HE NOTED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WHICH, IN TURN, REQUIRED BOTH AN INCREASE IN THE RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE TO MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND A HIGHER PRIORITY TO BE ASSIGNED TO HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROJECTS BY LDC'S IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT PLANS. HE SAID THAT WHILE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE COULD PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE, IT COULD PROVIDE ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF THE TOTAL RESOURCES NECESSARY AND THUS SELF-HELP WOULD REMAIN THE KEY ELEMENT.

4. REPRESENTATIVES OF 57 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN THE DEBATE. THERE WAS ALMOST UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR THE IMPORTANCE OF UNEP AND APPROVAL OF THE WORK PROGRAM OUTLINED BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STRONG. THERE WAS REPEATED EMPHASIS ON UNEP CONFIRMING ITSELF TO A CATALYTIC-COORDINATING FUNCTION AND FOCUSING ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIGH PRIORITY AREAS. HOWEVER, THE COMPENDIUM OF INDIVIDUAL INDICATIONS OF AREAS OF PRIORITY COVERED A WIDE AND DIVERSE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES. INDIVIDUAL SPEKERS DISSENTED FROM UNEP UNDERTAKING CERTAIN ACTIVITIES (E.G. SHARED RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW) BUT NO SERIOUS CONTROVERSIES EMERGED. A COPY OF THE U.S. STATEMENT WAS TRANSMITTED REFTEL (F).

5. ALMOST ALL SPEAKERS SPOKE FAVORABLY OF THE FORTHCOMING HABITAT CONFERENCE. (ONLY THE SOVIET BLOC OBJECTED TO THE AMOUNTS BEING EXPENDED.) BEHIND THE SCENES, HOWEVER, THERE WAS A STRUGGLE OVER THE RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH THE MODALITIES OF THE CONFERENCE. THE ARAB STATES WANTED A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE PLO IN THE INVITATION LIST; LIBYA RAISED THE QUESTION OF ISRAELI (AND SOUTH AFRICAN) PARTICIPATION; AND THERE WAS A GENERAL MOVE TO TRIM THE NUMBER OF NGO'S INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. THE CANADIAN DELEGATION, WITH THE SUPPORT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL PENALOSA, TOOK THE LEAD IN DRAFTING AN ESSENTIALLY SATISFACTORY TEXT (SEE REFTEL G). UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN AN OPEN INVITATION LIST FOR NGO'S (IE., THOSE NOT IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS ARE GENERALLY EXCLUDED). THE MISSION WILL ATTEMPT, HOWEVER, TO HAVE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL INVITATION LIST THOSE US NGO'S WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN OUR PREPARATIONS.

6. MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE PAUCITY OF INFORMATION, MOST REPRESENTATIVES SIMPLY INDICATED THEIR SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE. UPPER VOLTA RAISED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PREPARATIONS AND, REPORTEDLY, IS DRAFTING A RESOLUTION (NOT YET SURFACED) COVERING THIS.

7. THE SYG'S REPORT ON CRITERIA GOVERNING MULTILATERAL FINANCING OF HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WAS NOT CIRCULATED IN TIME FOR ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION DURING THE WEEK. ACCORDINGLY, AT THE REQUEST OF JAMAICA, AGENDA ITEM 59 WILL BE LEFT OPEN IN ORDER TO PERMIT DELEGATIONS TO CONSIDER THE REPORT AND PERHPAS COMMENT LATER IN THE SESSION.

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8. THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ARE STILL PENDING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE: (A) KENYA DRAFT ON GOVERNING COUNCIL REPORT (SEE REFTEL E): DRAFT HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY CIRCULATED - DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS AWAITED; (B) CANADIAN DRAFT ON HABITAT (A/C.A/L.1436 TRANSMITTED REFTEL (G) - MISSION AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT CONSENSUS APPROVAL WITH EXPLANATION OF VOTE; (C) SWEDISH DRAFT ON INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS (TRANSMITTED REFTEL (C) - MISSION AUTHORIZED TO SUPPORT AND CO-SPONSOR IF REQUESTED; (D) LIBYAN RESOLUTION ON MATERIAL REMNANTS OF WAR (TRANSMITTED REFTEL A) - DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED. DRAFT HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY CIRCULATED AS YET. NOTE THAT WHILE LIBYAN REFERENCES HAVE BEEN TO PROBLEM FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, LAOTIAN SUPPORTING STATEMENT ON OCTOBER 24 SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO US BOMBING,

DEFOILATION, ETC., IN INDO CHINA AREA. NO ONE WE HAVE
TALKED TO, INCLUDING SOME G-77 REPS, WANTS THIS DRAFT TO
COME FORWARD - HOWEVER, NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE ANY IDEA
OF HOW TO DEFLECT THE LIBYANS; (E) UPPER VOLTA
DRAFT ON THE DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE - SEE PARA B ABOVE.
MOYNIHAN

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